

Appl. No.: 10/661,235

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[004] Once a string of packaging cushions has been formed it is necessary to deliver them to the article packing station. U.S. Pat. No. 6,536,183 discloses a system for delivering packaging cushions to a point of use in which a continuous string of the cushions is fed into an elongated duct with the string extending longitudinally of the duct. An air flow is established in the duct to convey the string of cushions through the duct to the point of use. In U.S. Pat No. 6,428,246 there is disclosed a system and method for making, conveying and dispensing packing material to a packing station. The packaging material is a chain of linked cushions and the system includes a pressurized duct to an elongated hopper located above a plurality of packing stations. The elongated hopper includes air jets that transfer the string of packaging cushions between each jet to a remote end of the hopper. Located at intervals along the length of the hopper are a series of dispensing openings so the cushions may be accessed at each of the packing stations.